

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/030,099
Amendment filed July 27, 2006
Reply to OA dated May 2, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application, as of the Request for Continued Examination filed on May 2, 2006. The present Supplemental Amendment amends claims 1, 3-5, and 10, and cancels claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-12 will be pending.

The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in claim 2, which is accordingly canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-5 and 10 are correspondingly amended to depend from claim 1.

Regarding the Office action dated June 30, 2006.

Applicant's agent, Daniel Geselowitz, contacted Examiner Dicus and her supervisor by telephone, requesting that the Office action dated June 30, 2006, be vacated since the 3-month suspension of action requested in the RCE filed on May 2, 2006, had not yet elapsed. The Examiner's supervisor indicated that the Office action of June 30, 2006, would be vacated. The present Supplemental Amendment is filed within the 3-month suspension of action period.

Claims 1-6, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,829,790 to Phillips in view of USPN 6,214,449 to Otani et al. (Office action paragraphs no. 2-4)

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Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2.

As described in the last Response, the object of the present invention is to achieve superior printing quality both in fixed information provided by a usual printing method and in variable information provided by ink jet recording method.

As is apparent from the description in the Background Art section of the instant specification, it is known to a person skilled in the art that fixed information is printed by a usual printing method and then variable information is printed by an ink jet recording method, thereby providing a printed matter wherein the benefits of both the methods are taken advantage of.

However, it is impossible to obtain satisfactory printing quality on a usual printing paper by the ink jet recording method, while it is impossible to obtain satisfactory printing quality on an exclusive paper sheet for ink jet recording method by the usual printing method.

Therefore, in order to accomplish the object of the present invention, it is necessary to provide a printed matter having a new construction which is not the printing paper used in the usual printing method and not the exclusive paper sheet for ink jet recording method.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable mainly over Phillips (USPN 5,829,790) in view of Otani (USPN 6,214,449).

Phillips discloses a technique wherein a sticker portion on which variable information is printed by an ink jet recording method is stuck on a greeting card on which fixed information is printed by a usual printing method. However, Phillips does not teach or suggest the subject matter

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of the present invention that an ink jet-receiving layer is provided on the portion of a printing paper on which variable information is to be printed.

Otani discloses only a dedicated (exclusive) paper sheet for a usual ink jet recording method. In Otani, however, printing of fixed information by other printing method is not entirely assumed.

Otani discloses an ink jet recording paper having on at least one side of a base paper at least two ink-receiving layers. However, the two ink-receiving layers are characterized in that they are different from each other in thickness and density. Otani does not teach or suggest the subject matter now incorporated into claim 1, that the receiving layer comprises at least two layers containing different ingredients respectively, at least one layer of them being a receiving layer comprising an ink-absorbing resin as its main ingredient and at least the other layer of them being a receiving layer comprising an ink-fixing resin as its main ingredient. That is, in Otani there is no technical concept that two or more receiving layers composed of materials having different functions are utilized.

The feature of the present invention that the receiving layer comprises at least two layers containing different ingredients respectively, at least one layer of them being a receiving layer comprising an ink-absorbing resin as its main ingredient and at least the other layer of them being a receiving layer comprising an ink-fixing resin as its main ingredient, thereby providing excellent results (see Examples 10, 11, 15, 16, 20 and 21), is a technique entirely different from Otani.

There is no suggestion or motivation in the references to adopt the receiving layer having the structure above. This structure is entirely different from that of Otani, and achieves superior printing

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quality both in fixed information provided by usual printing method and in variable information provided by ink jet recording method, thereby providing excellent results.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,573

DAG/jmp
Atty. Docket No. 020043
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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